United Nations S/PV.4076

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

4076th Meeting
Tuesday, 30 November 1999, 6.15 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Türk	(Slovenia)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Ramírez
	Bahrain	Mr. Al-Dosari
	Brazil	Mr. Cordeiro
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	France	Mr. Teixeira da Silva
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara-Moussotsi
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. Kooijmans
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Preliminary Deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/1999/1116 and Corr.1)

99-86617 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 6.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Preliminary Deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/1999/1116 and Corr.1)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Preliminary Deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, document S/1999/1116 and Corr.1.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1999/1207, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1998/1207) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1279 (1999).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Expression of farewell by the outgoing President

The President: Before adjourning this meeting, since this is the last meeting of the Slovene presidency of November 1999, I would like to express on behalf of my delegation our gratitude to all the members of the Security Council. We are grateful for the assistance and understanding that members have rendered to the presidency throughout this month, for the moral support and for the great spirit in which the Council worked in the month of November.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. Stephanides and Ms. Blenman and their team for the very efficient support and assistance which has been ever available to the President of the Security Council. They have helped greatly in overcoming a variety of technical and other obstacles to the work of the Council.

I would like to express today our particular admiration for the interpreters, who have been with us for many long hours, showing great patience and professionalism. They have made our agreements and differences perfectly understood. This has helped us in our work.

We are grateful to the entire staff of the Secretariat, all the document officers, technicians, conference room officers, security officers and others who make the operation of the Security Council possible. The Security Council is a complex mechanism, and without all this support it would not be able to organize its work.

This has been an interesting and exciting month. I believe that the Council has taken several important decisions. I think that we can conclude this month with a certain degree of satisfaction.

As the outgoing President, I would like to inform the Council that the reception that I am hosting is starting within a few minutes and all are invited.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.4077

Security Council

Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

4077th Meeting

Friday, 3 December 1999, 5 p.m.

New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Fonseca
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Essonghe
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Slovenia	Mr. Lenarčič
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1242 (1999) (S/1999/1162 and Corr.1)

Letter dated 17 November 1999 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (S/1999/1177)

99-86635 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.15 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of December, I should like to take the opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Danilo Türk, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of November 1999. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing our deep appreciation to Ambassador Türk for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1242 (1999) (S/1999/1162 and Corr.1)

Letter dated 17 November 1999 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (S/1999/1177)

The President: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/1999/1215, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1999/1215) before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*spoke in French*): The draft resolution before the Council relates to the renewal of resolution 986 (1995), commonly known as the oil-for-food resolution. After 1997 that resolution was regularly renewed by the Council for six-month periods, until a recent decision to extend its provisions for 15 days, which proved impracticable.

The text before us would extend the provisions of the resolution for seven days. Such a short seven-day extension would make it technically impossible to sell oil and, therefore, fully to implement resolution 986 (1995). The minimum time required for processing contracts under the mechanism set up by the United Nations means that oil sales will not be able to take place. The draft resolution therefore seems to be drafted in such a way as to deliberately render incapable of realization the measure that it proposes.

It is true that we have been told that the issue is not about adopting a humanitarian text, but about using this vote for another purpose: to bring pressure to bear on the members of the Security Council with regard to another exercise and another resolution. The expected vote therefore has nothing to do with its theoretical purpose.

Is it conceivable that in the Security Council we should take a decision on a text that we know cannot be implemented in practice? Is it conceivable that we should take a decision on a text which owes its existence to considerations that are alien to its purpose? We do not believe so. That is why, given this exceptional and extremely unusual process, we see only one reasonable position to take: not to participate in the voting.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): On 19 November 1999 my delegation supported and voted in favour of resolution 1275 (1999), authorizing a two-week extension of the oil-for-food programme for Iraq, on the clear understanding that there would not be any linkage between its adoption and the negotiations on the draft omnibus resolution on Iraq which is currently being discussed among the permanent members of the Council, with a view to its consideration by the full membership of the Council before its adoption.

We made our position very clear before the adoption of that resolution. Indeed, assurances were given at that time that there was no attempt to establish such a linkage and that the two exercises were independent of each other. We welcome these assurances, and in order to de-link the two processes, my delegation will repeat its earlier proposal, which is for you, Mr. President, to consider bringing the draft omnibus resolution forward

for the consideration of the full membership of the Council as soon as possible, so that the entire membership of the Council can evaluate the issue and make the appropriate assessment and recommendation to their respective Governments.

Regrettably, today we are asked to vote on another draft resolution extending the oil-for-food programme for one week. This clearly establishes a linkage and is apparent for all to see. The one-week time-frame is arbitrary and is based on three major, but not necessarily right, assumptions.

The first assumption is that the ongoing discussions on negotiations among the permanent members of the Council on the omnibus draft resolution on Iraq will lead to an agreement within a week. My delegation would, of course, warmly welcome such an outcome, for such a breakthrough would facilitate Council consideration of the omnibus draft resolution.

The second assumption is that once there is agreement among the permanent members of the Council the Council will immediately act on that draft resolution. My delegation cannot share that assumption. Inasmuch as we would welcome agreements among the permanent members on the omnibus draft resolution on Iraq, my delegation would need to convey that outcome to my Government for an in-depth consideration of it before determining Malaysia's final position on the matter. Such a process would obviously require a little time. That is only natural, as my delegation was not party to the protracted negotiations on the draft omnibus resolution.

One would expect a full and detailed consideration and negotiation of the draft resolution among all 15 members of the Council before action could be taken on it. If the permanent members took five months to hammer out an agreement among themselves, assuming they were able to do that, when there are just five of them, surely the non-permanent members — and there are ten of us — would expect the courtesy of being given some time to consider what is a very complex subject before offering our comments and proposals.

The third assumption is that once the Council reaches agreements on the omnibus draft resolution its implementation can be effected immediately. This is too optimistic a scenario, as there is necessarily a time lag or transition period, which may be long or short, between the adoption of a resolution and its implementation.

This is why my delegation considers a one-week extension of the oil-for-food programme as an arbitrary and artificial time-frame and a transparent attempt to stampede the process of reaching an agreement on the larger issues pertaining to Iraq that are being addressed in the so-called omnibus or comprehensive draft resolution. Its adoption would create uncertainty and unpredictability for the oil-for-food humanitarian programme for Iraq as well as technical problems of implementation.

As regards the omnibus draft resolution, my delegation firmly believes that it should be comprehensive, incorporating a sanctions-lifting plan as we strive to ensure that Iraq meets its remaining disarmament requirements. Reconciling the two is never an easy matter. Any consideration of the Iraq sanctions regime should not be artificially forced or hurried if we are to achieve the twin goals of alleviating the grave humanitarian situation in Iraq and ensuring Iraqi compliance with the requirements in respect of its alleged remaining weapons of mass destruction.

My delegation is in favour of a simple technical roll-over of the oil-for-food programme for the normal duration of six months. This extension carries no risk, and could be reconciled if the Security Council reaches a consensus any time during its implementation. A one-week extension, in our view, will not serve any practical purpose beyond giving the Office of the Iraq Programme breathing space to catch up with the backlog of applications and putting dubious pressure on some permanent members of the Council. It is technically difficult, if not practically impossible, to conclude contracts and lift oil within a short period of time. In the meantime, the programme will lose millions of dollars in oil revenue.

For these reasons, I regret that my delegation is not in a position to support the draft resolution before the Council. If it were not for the fact that the Council is dealing with the serious matter of the grave humanitarian situation in Iraq, my delegation would reject it. In these circumstances, however, it will abstain on the draft resolution.

The President: I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1999/1215.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Gabon, Gambia, Namibia, Netherlands, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

None

Abstaining:

China, Malaysia, Russian Federation

France did not participate in the voting.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows: 11 in favour, none against and 3 abstentions. One Council member did not participate in the voting. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 1280 (1999).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Burleigh (United States of America): The United States has a deep and enduring interest in the welfare of Iraqi citizens living under the regime of Saddam Hussein. We took a leading role in shaping the oil-for-food programme from its original conception shortly after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. We note with satisfaction the documented success of this important humanitarian effort. Oil-for-food is the largest humanitarian assistance effort in United Nations history, and it has brought about a significant improvement in living conditions for the civilian population throughout Iraq.

As all of us know, normal United Nations operations are ongoing throughout Iraq. Despite the Iraqi Government's unjustified recent decision to curtail authorized oil production and exports, large quantities of humanitarian supplies continue arriving in the country on a daily basis. There has been no disruption of humanitarian assistance under the oil-for-food programme, and it is a matter of the utmost importance that the programme continue without disruption.

For that reason, we applaud the action the Council has taken today in acting to extend phase VI of the programme for seven days, through December 11. This resolution ensures that essential humanitarian assistance can continue while the Security Council prepares for adoption of a comprehensive resolution on Iraq next week. Adoption of that resolution, which includes many important provisions bearing on the oil-for-food programme, will clear the way for action on a full six-month extension of the programme a week from now. That resolution will represent the culmination of many months of work by the Council, and needs to be in place before we turn our attention to authorizing a full phase VII of oil-for-food.

We also commend the leadership of the Office of the Iraq Programme in managing the oil-for-food programme, especially in light of the obstacles recently erected by the Iraqi regime. We call upon the Government of Iraq to cease the cynical posturing we have seen over the past two weeks, to resume authorized oil production and exports without delay and to cooperate fully with the programme during the coming week and in the future.

In closing, I would recall that the oil-for-food programme, as established by the Council in resolution 986 (1995), is a temporary measure. It was never intended to usurp the primary responsibility for meeting civilian needs in Iraq, which continues to reside with the Government of that country. The United Nations has been compelled to take this temporary measure because of the blatant disregard which the Iraqi regime has demonstrated for the well-being of the Iraqi people. The United States will continue to support the uninterrupted continuation of this programme as long as it remains necessary for the international community to address urgent civilian needs which the Iraqi Government chooses to ignore.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation has repeatedly emphasized that the very serious humanitarian situation in Iraq urgently dictates the need for the adoption of speedy measures to relieve the grave humanitarian situation of the Iraqi people. We must observe that the humanitarian operation in its current form is not in keeping with the broad-scale tasks it was called upon to carry out.

In Iraq the socio-economic infrastructure is continuing to crumble. Goods and equipment crucial to civilian life are not being delivered within the framework of the humanitarian programme. These problems are aggravated by the blocking of a significant number of contracts within the sanctions Committee.

In connection with the need for carrying out urgent measures to correct the situation, two weeks ago the

Russian Federation proposed the adoption of a draft resolution extending the United Nations humanitarian operations. The terms of that draft resolution reflected the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the conclusions of the humanitarian panel chaired by Ambassador Amorim regarding the improvement of the United Nations humanitarian programme. First and foremost, the draft resolution addressed the removal of the oil ceiling, an increase in quotas for delivery to Iraq of oil spare parts, a simplification of the procedure for reviewing contracts in the sanctions Committee, and a solution to the problem of air links with Baghdad. Unfortunately, our approach was not taken into account by a number of delegations.

We are compelled to observe that the resolution just adopted by the Security Council providing a one-week extension of phase VI of humanitarian operations is not in keeping with the current realities of the grave humanitarian situation in Iraq. The practical implementation of such an artificial decision is fraught with many obvious difficulties of a technical nature. These will lead to serious interruptions in the entire humanitarian operation. Bearing in mind the fact that the authors of the draft resolution did not find it possible to take into account even the simple, but extremely logical amendment proposed by France for a longer "technical" roll-over — which would have allowed the humanitarian programme to remain in operation — the Russian Federation was not able to support the resolution in its current form.

In this connection, we would like to state clearly that we in no way link consideration of priority humanitarian issues with continuing work on the comprehensive resolution on Iraq. We would like once again to emphasize that the decision adopted by the Council in no way establishes the timetable for concluding work on an omnibus resolution, and we do not assume any responsibilities in this regard. In order to find a way out of the Iraqi deadlock we need to reach agreement on the remaining serious problems, and this we are still lacking. Attempts to establish any kind of artificial time limits in this regard are totally inappropriate.

Mr. Duval (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada voted in favour of the resolution the Council has just adopted. We would have preferred to adopt a 180-day roll-over into phase VII. However, we are able to support this seven-day extension in order to allow an extra week for negotiations among the permanent members on a comprehensive resolution.

(spoke in English)

These temporary, technical roll-overs cannot continue indefinitely. Should one week prove insufficient, we hope that serious consideration will be given by all members to a 180-day roll-over the next time.

We urge the permanent members to use this extra week to achieve progress that will allow the comprehensive resolution to finally be brought back to the Security Council for consideration and action.

Mr. van Walsum (Netherlands): Under normal circumstances we, too, would have been glad to support a regular roll-over for a new phase of 180 days. However, we believe that the circumstances are not normal.

The Netherlands was a sponsor of one of the three draft resolutions that were informally submitted after the panel's exercise. At a certain point it was decided to entrust the issue to the five permanent members. We were able to accept this procedure because we felt that the permanent five members constituted the only institution that would be capable of hammering out a consensus. That was about half a year ago. Now the permanent five are under pressure from the elected members, and rightly so.

Given the circumstances, we believe that a one-week extension of phase VI maintains that pressure. A longer extension would, in our view, remove the pressure, and we are strongly in favour of maintaining this pressure because we hope that the permanent five members will interpret the signal correctly and bring the comprehensive resolution back to the Council before 11 December.

In this matter perhaps too much has already been said about the distinction between the permanent five and the elected ten, and I am reluctant to raise this issue once again. But I would like to point out that, in my view, an elected member could not afford not to take part in the vote on such an important issue as oil-for-food. We would never be able to explain such behaviour to the delegations that elected us.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Since its implementation, the temporary oil-for-food programme has played a considerable role in easing the humanitarian difficulties in Iraq. Meanwhile, it is undeniable that the programme also has shortcomings and

should continue to be supplemented or adjusted in a timely fashion in the light of prevailing realities.

We believe that the question of whether the oil-for-food programme should be extended for one week or six months depends above all on the humanitarian needs of the civilian population in Iraq. It also depends on how the programme might be more smoothly implemented. Further considerations should also be subject to this fundamental goal. Even though various parties may have differing political positions regarding the question of Iraq, the programme for meeting the basic humanitarian needs of Iraqi civilians should in no way be used as a tool for exerting political pressure.

The resolution just adopted by the Council, which provides for a one-week extension, obviously is not intended to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi civilians. Nor does it help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme. It is mainly intended to force the Council to adopt, as soon as possible, a new omnibus resolution on Iraq. Some members went so far as to indicate that they were supporting this resolution in order to exert pressure on the five permanent members to conclude their consultations on the omnibus resolution within a week. We are very surprised by this.

The Security Council deadlock on Iraq has lasted for almost a year without resolution and with long delays. China is also extremely dissatisfied and disappointed at this. However, to attribute this situation indiscriminately to the slow progress in the consultations among the five permanent members is inappropriate. The unilateral military strike against Iraq last December was the main reason the United Nations arms-verification programme in Iraq was suspended. This is a fact beyond dispute.

How can we break the deadlock as soon as possible? There is a Chinese saying to the effect that he who tied the knot should be the one to undo it. Those countries that launched the military strike should now show flexibility.

Like other members, China very much hopes to see an early completion of consultations among the permanent five and the adoption by the Council of a new resolution on Iraq as soon as possible. China has made and will continue to make positive efforts to this end. We should adopt a responsible attitude and try to elaborate a programme that will truly solve the problem. We cannot accept next week as the deadline for consultations of the permanent five or for the Council's discussions.

For these reasons, we believe that the resolution extending the oil-for-food programme for one week does not help to improve the humanitarian situation in Iraq or advance the consultations among the permanent five on the omnibus text on Iraq. From the outset, we have appealed to the parties to seek common ground, while reserving differences and avoiding confrontation, in devising a roll-over programme that best meets the needs of civilians in Iraq. Regrettably, China's hope and appeals have not received their due attention and response.

That is why China was compelled to abstain in the voting on the resolution.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): The humanitarian situation of the civilian population in Iraq as a result of the punishing sanctions has been of concern to my delegation since the day we entered the Security Council as a member. In our view, the oil-for-food programme, although limited in what it can achieve, therefore plays a major role in alleviating this plight. It is our view that everything should be done to ensure that it is not disrupted. On the other hand, we remain equally frustrated by the inability of the Council to address the Iraqi issue comprehensively. It was for this reason that the Council agreed that the permanent five should try to resolve the differences among themselves.

However, today I have to express our frustration that no clear resolve is yet available. Instead, it now appears that the continued existence of the oil-for-food programme is threatened by the very same political differences which created the impasse previously. We urge the permanent five to speed up their consultations so that the omnibus resolution may be brought back to the Council.

My delegation would have preferred a full six-month renewal of the oil-for-food programme. However, we voted in favour of the one-week extension in the hope that it will assist the Council in coming to a conclusion on the comprehensive resolution.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*spoke in French*): One representative has explained that he did not understand how one could fail to take a position on such a resolution.

I feel that it is easy to understand in hearing the dilemma described by that representative in expressing his delegation's interest in humanitarian considerations

and in obtaining a six-month extension. At the same time, however, his delegation supports pressure being exerted by other members of the Council. Hence, his delegation faced a dilemma.

It is precisely in order to avoid such dilemmas, which give rise to unreasonable solutions, that I believe such a resolution should not have been put to the vote. I should like to point out that, in certain very rare cases, texts that we know will not be implemented and therefore do not enhance the Council's authority should not be put to the vote. We must know how not to take a stand so as not to participate in an exercise that, I might say, is materially unworkable.

Mr. van Walsum (Netherlands): I am sorry to take the floor again, but I wanted to point out that non-participation in the voting is extremely rare and that few non-permanent members have ever resorted to this extraordinary measure.

My Foreign Minister, in the General Assembly, suggested that it might be useful to start looking for a way in which permanent members might express their absolutely negative attitude without being obliged to cast a veto. I had simply hoped that we were seeing an example of this procedure, in which a permanent member said no without casting a veto. I was hoping that it was this new element that we saw introduced today.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4077/Corr.1

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish only

4077th Meeting
Friday, 3 December 1999, 5 p.m.
New York

Corrigendum

Page 5, second column, fourth paragraph, third line

for panel's *read* panels

99-86711 (E)

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United Nations S/PV.4078

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

4078th Meeting
Friday, 10 December 1999, 10.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Fonseca
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Slovenia	Mr. Benedejčič
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

First report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (S/1999/1223)

99-86688 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

First report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (S/1999/1223)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Bernard Miyet, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Miyet to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the first report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), document S/1999/1223.

I now give the floor to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Bernard Miyet.

Mr. Miyet: At your request, I should like to introduce to the members of the Security Council the first report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), which is contained in document S/1999/1223 and which was issued on 6 December this year. I should also like to update the Council on relevant developments that have occurred since the preparation of the report.

As described in the report, progress has undoubtedly been made in the implementation Lomé Peace Agreement of 7 July 1999. On the political level, a Government of National Unity, comprising members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), was sworn in on 2 November.

The rebels are now part of the Government and share in the responsibility for moving the country forward on the road to peace, reconciliation and development.

Another positive development is the registration of the RUF as a political party on 22 November, now called the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFP). However, the party still has to adopt its statutes and set up office. It is hoped that the RUF will give priority to transforming its military structures into a purely political party. Such efforts would be deserving of support and encouragement by the international community.

After a long delay, the RUF and the AFRC have now also appointed their representatives to the Joint Monitoring Commission (JMC) and the Ceasefire Monitoring Commission (CMC). The first joint meeting of the JMC and the CMC was held on 7 December.

I would like now to turn to the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. That programme, which is supported by the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank, is now picking up steam. It is hoped that this momentum can be maintained. The Secretary-General has been in touch with the President of the World Bank, Mr. Wolfensohn, to discuss means to improve the interaction between the World Bank, UNAMSIL and other stakeholders on the ground.

As a result of public appeals by Mr. Foday Sankoh, a significant number of ex-RUF combatants have come forward to join the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Similarly, on 1 December,

after an appeal by Mr. Johnny Paul Koroma, 158 ex-Sierra Leone Army combatants, including 77 child soldiers, reported for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Occra Hills area. Last week, Koroma visited Kabala and encouraged the AFRC fighters there to lay down their arms. This week, Mr. Sankoh did the same in Fadugu. But we have to note that despite these appeals, the response up to now has been very slow. To summarize, almost 5,000, or over 10 per cent of an estimated 45,000 combatants, are now taking part in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. However, the various armed groups have yet to provide detailed information on the strength of their military forces.

At the same time, the disarmament process is difficult and will require a concerted effort as well as vigilance by all involved. The estimated large numbers of ex-combatants and the complex nature of the programme's management require continuous and close coordination between the Government and the various national and international actors to ensure that the programme can be implemented promptly and without any disruptions to stability in the country. The United Nations stands ready to assume its role in this regard. UNAMSIL has been instructed to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in preparing plans for the destruction of weapons surrendered by ex-combatants.

After a period of unrest, the situation in the Lungi and Port Loko disarmament camps is now relatively quiet. In the last few days, the National Commission for the disarmament process has disbursed about $25 to each of 500 ex-combatants in the Lungi camp. This money is supposed to address some of the immediate needs of ex-combatants. On 6 December, a "pre-discharge orientation" programme began in the Lungi camp and was received enthusiastically by the ex-combatants. In this regard, it would be important to find ways and means of keeping the period of encampment as short as possible and to expedite the preparations for the reintegration of ex-combatants.

(*spoke in French*)

I should now like to turn to some causes for concern which still remain. The Secretary-General in his report has described a number of causes of concern for the future. The security situation in the country remains volatile, although in recent days the situation has seemed to stabilize somewhat. In early October, the RUF moved several hundred fighters from Kailahun to Makeni, which had been under joint RUF/AFRC control. The town was subsequently attacked and taken over by the RUF. Fighting between the RUF and AFRC also took place around Lunsar and Rogberi. In addition, there were reports of frequent attacks by armed groups on villages and roads throughout the country. In particular, attacks in the area of Kimbia reportedly caused up to 1,000 persons to flee into Guinea.

Another source of concern relates to Mr. Sam Bockarie, one of the RUF commanders in the eastern part of the country, who has made several public statements that could give rise to some doubt as to the strength of his commitment to the peace process. Efforts are now being undertaken by the Government, the RUF leadership and UNAMSIL to provide him with the necessary clarifications about the Lomé Peace Agreement and the disarmament programme.

More recent sources of concern were several public statements made in the last day or two by Mr. Foday Sankoh himself in connection with the arrival of United Nations troops and their role in the disarmament process.

Lastly, since it is reported today in the press, I should like to inform the Council that two doctors from the non-governmental organization Doctors Without Borders have been detained in the Kailahun region. Mr. Bockarie has voiced his dissatisfaction over the disarmament process under way. Efforts are now being made on the ground by the Government and United Nations representatives in order to achieve the speedy release of the two doctors, and perhaps it might be desirable for the Council itself to voice the need for their release.

Another source of concern for the entire United Nations family, for non-governmental organizations and for Governments is the human rights situation, with too-frequent occurrences of rape, looting and harassment of and attacks on civilians. Furthermore, both the RUF and the AFRC have to date shown great reluctance to release adult and child abductees. Only some 1,000 adults and children have been released so far. Considerable numbers of civilians are still in captivity, and there are reports of continuing abductions. UNAMSIL issued a strong appeal to the parties to take immediate action to end the abuses, the human rights violations and the attacks against civilians. We also continue to urge Government authorities and ECOMOG to protect the civilian population to the extent possible, and wherever possible. In this regard, it should be recalled that a Ghanaian ECOMOG soldier was injured recently when his unit

took part in the defence of a village against an attack by a rebel group at Pepel island, 20 kilometres east of Lungi.

Still with reference to human rights, the Human Rights Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission envisaged in the Lomé Agreement have yet to be established. As described in the Secretary-General's report, UNAMSIL and the Government of Sierra Leone are working closely with the office of Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to prepare the ground for the establishment of these two important commissions.

My final point relating to the various sources of concern is that the humanitarian crisis in Sierra Leone continues: the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been seriously hampered by the outbreaks of violence in various places. Assistance efforts by the humanitarian agencies continue to be obstructed by a variety of threats and by the procedures that must be carried out *vis-à-vis* various groups in order to gain access to many areas. These procedures are arbitrary and at this point there is no automatic access for non-governmental organizations. In addition, some national and international humanitarian personnel and experts continue to suffer harassment, assault and even at times detention at the hands of the rebel forces. The Lomé Peace Agreement clearly commits all former parties to the conflict to providing safe and unhindered access for humanitarian interventions. Clearly it is important that this access be given without further delay; this would also send a message to the Security Council.

I turn now to the question of the deployment of UNAMSIL. Since the preparation of the report, significant progress has been made with regard to the deployment of the military component of UNAMSIL. Nevertheless, efforts continue, in close coordination with the contributing States involved — to which I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude — to expedite the deployment so that the component can begin its work very soon.

The Force Commander, Major-General Jetley of India, arrived in Freetown on 7 December. The Force Headquarters, including logistic, administrative and security elements, all provided by India, have also arrived this week. The Indian battalion and rapid reaction force, comprising some 1,200 troops, will be arriving in three batches in the course of this month, and the deployment of this Indian contingent should be completed by the end of the year or by early January 2000. Over half of the Kenyan battalion is already on the ground, and their deployment should be completed by this weekend.

As members of the Council are aware, the Secretary-General has approached several Governments now contributing troops to ECOMOG with a view to securing their participation in UNAMSIL. In this regard, the battalion from Ghana, already on the ground as part of ECOMOG, will be reinforced to meet United Nations specifications and, pending the final necessary administrative arrangements, will be brought under United Nations command by the end of this month.

Since October, the Secretariat has also been engaged in intensive discussions with the Government of Nigeria and with other ECOWAS countries, including the Gambia and Guinea, in order to expedite the deployment of their military personnel. After the necessary information on important logistical details that the Secretariat received from the Nigerian authorities late last week, we hope that 2,000 fresh troops and 50 military observers from countries with which we have been in consultation can be brought in before the end of the year.

It is therefore important, as members of the Council are aware, that ECOMOG continues to play a major role in providing security at Lungi and at Freetown as well as in assisting the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, as envisaged in the Lomé Agreement. The Secretary-General has continued to be in touch with regional leaders, in particular President Obasanjo of Nigeria, to emphasize the importance that ECOMOG maintain in Sierra Leone a credible force of several thousand troops so that the process can proceed under the best possible conditions.

The Secretary-General warmly thanks ECOMOG and the contributing countries for their continued efforts and for the sacrifices they have made to support the Government and people of Sierra Leone. The Secretary-General also renews his appeal to donor countries to provide ECOMOG, in a way that consolidates its presence, with the support needed during the coming phase of its operations to effectively perform the tasks assigned to it.

(*spoke in English*)

I would like to conclude by saying that in spite of several serious concerns which I have outlined just now, we believe that there is perhaps also cause for some cautious optimism. It is clear that the commitments of the parties to the Lomé Agreement will be put to the test in the coming crucial period. Now that the main mechanisms for ceasefire monitoring and disarmament

are almost in place, the responsibility for advancing the peace process in Sierra Leone and keeping the momentum in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process rests with the parties, in particular the rebels. The United Nations, in close cooperation with ECOMOG, stands ready to do its part.

Mr. van Walsum (Netherlands): The Secretary-General's first report on United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Under-Secretary-General Miyet's supplementary briefing contain some positive elements but also give cause for deep concern. It is probably a coincidence that Mr. Miyet gave us all the good news in English and all the bad news in French.

Although important progress has been made in the implementation of parts of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the deployment of UNAMSIL is well under way, the overall situation on the ground does not bode well for lasting peace in Sierra Leone. Violent incidents, ceasefire violations and human rights abuses have been reported with increasing frequency over the past two months. The neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian relief have not been respected. Humanitarian access has been impeded by the deteriorating security situation. Disarmament has been proceeding at too slow a pace.

It is becoming more and more difficult to describe these occurrences as isolated incidents. We call upon all rebel leaders to demonstrate their genuine commitment to the peace process in all its details. Only then can the promise of peace held out in the Lomé Agreement be made a reality.

First, all actions by rebels and their leaders as here described must cease right away. The Secretary-General rightly states in paragraph 34 of his report:

> "The continued violence against the people of Sierra Leone and international personnel is unacceptable and perpetrators should expect to be held accountable for their actions."

It must be made clear to the rebels and their leaders that the amnesty of the Lomé Peace Agreement does not extend to atrocities committed after the signing of the accord.

Second, rebel leaders must continue to call upon their fighters to disband and lay down their arms. The report indicates once again that all parties must give absolute priority to the disarmament activities. The participation of 5,000 ex-combatants is a step in the right direction, but it still leaves an estimated 40,000 of their colleagues outside the programme.

As for the question of funding, we are glad to see that a number of donor countries have made contributions to the World Bank Trust Fund set up to cover the costs of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The Netherlands is finalizing arrangements for a contribution of $1.5 million to this fund.

In paragraph 26 of resolution 1270 (1999), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide it with "updates ... on the continued level of deployment of ECOMOG personnel". We share the Secretary-General's hope that ECOMOG will continue to play its critical role in Sierra Leone as envisaged in the Lomé Agreement. In this connection, we commend Nigeria and other troop contributing countries for their vital contributions. In reaction to the Secretary-General's urgent appeal to donors contained in paragraph 36 of his report, we wish to remind the participants in the forthcoming ECOWAS Ministerial Meeting that the Netherlands is prepared once again to extend $8.2 million in additional budget support to the Republic of Mali so as to enable this country to contribute to ECOMOG's vital mission in Sierra Leone.

We acknowledge that the primary focus at this moment should be on disarmament and the deployment of United Nations and ECOMOG personnel, but we emphasize once more that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission must start as soon as possible. We hope that in his next report the Secretary-General will be able to report more progress on this aspect, as well as on the outcome of the study on the nexus between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a possible international commission of inquiry into human rights violations.

In closing, I wish to pay tribute to the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Okelo, and welcome Ambassador Adeniji as his successor.

Mr. Petrella (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this briefing. We believe this format marks a positive step towards greater transparency and openness in the work of the Council, particularly when high-ranking members of the Secretariat, as in the case of Ambassador Miyet today, deliver reports to the Council on important issues on our agenda.

The comprehensive report that the Secretary-General has submitted to us, as complemented today by the remarks of Under-Secretary-General Miyet, shows that the political, security and humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone is fragile and increasingly precarious. The example of some statements made to the media by Mr. Sankoh as to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and by Mr. Sam Bockarie to the effect that his troops would not be disarming before Nigerian troops in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) or in UNAMSIL — these are frankly alarming and must be rejected. That is why we reiterate that it is important to have UNAMSIL on the ground and to have it deployed as quickly as possible; and ECOMOG's continued presence is just as important.

We are encouraged by the comments made by Under-Secretary-General Miyet that subsequent to the Secretary-General's report the deployment by UNAMSIL has got under way without difficulty. We should congratulate the countries that have contributed military personnel for this difficult task.

The unequivocal backing of the Security Council for the Lomé Agreement is also very important, as are all the efforts made by President Kabbah to strengthen the democratic institutions in Sierra Leone.

With regard to the content of the report of the Secretary-General, in particular paragraph 34, and the comments that Under-Secretary-General Miyet has made, we would like to reiterate our particular concern about the attacks against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. In this context, we wish to reiterate the importance of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and we urge countries to ratify it.

In our view, everyone who is active in the territory is responsible for the security of such personnel. At the same time, we must seek ways of making sure that personnel of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian agencies receive the protection they need. With all due respect to the relevant countries and without wishing to interfere in their sovereign decisions, it seems to us that all Governments receiving United Nations personnel in their territories should become parties to the aforementioned Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

On another matter, I would like to endorse what has just been said by the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the effect that the amnesty envisaged in the Lomé Agreement should not be extended to cover atrocities committed subsequent to that Agreement.

Allow me in conclusion to congratulate Ambassador Okelo on a job very well done and to welcome the new Special Representative, Ambassador Adeniji of Nigeria, who so effectively discharged his duties in the Central African Republic.

Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Gabon has carefully studied the Secretary-General's report on the evolution of the situation in Sierra Leone. It has also listened most carefully to the complementary presentation Under-Secretary-General Bernard Miyet has just made to the Council.

Like the Secretary-General, we welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Lomé Agreement, including, *inter alia*, the return to Sierra Leone of the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), as well as the establishment of a Government of National Unity and the recent increase in the number of former combatants that have joined the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Nonetheless, it is regrettable to have to note that recently some parties have yet again resumed the hostilities, casting doubt on their genuine willingness to contribute positively to the restoration of peace and the rebuilding of the country.

The delegation of Gabon condemns the continued acts of aggression against civilians, international civil servants and humanitarian personnel committed by the former rebel elements. We therefore call on all those who have yet to lay down their arms and who are behind the resurgence of violence to stop fighting immediately so as to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid and the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme now under way, as well as the other tasks envisaged under the Lomé Agreement. By the same token, it would be desirable for the rebel leaders to undertake an information campaign among their fighters to make them aware of the terms of the DDR programme. Such a campaign might encourage them to participate in the programme. Now is also the time to accelerate the full deployment of the 6,000 United Nations Blue Helmets envisaged under resolution 1270 (1999).

We take this opportunity to thank those countries that have already provided or pledged to provide troop contingents or financial and logistical contributions. We cannot praise enough the work of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), which has allowed the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone.

The success of the peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone clearly depends on the firm will of the people of Sierra Leone to respect the commitments they made under the Lomé Agreement. It also depends on the continuation of the assistance of the international community.

We thank Mr. Okelo for the efforts that he has made, which have made it possible to achieve the results that we have seen, and we encourage the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General to continue this work so as to allow the Government and the people of Sierra Leone to again enjoy concord and national unity.

Mr. Fowler (Canada): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting in this format. We join others who have already spoken in welcoming the Secretary-General's appointment of his new Special Representative in Sierra Leone, Mr. Adeniji, under whose direction we had the privilege of working in Bangui. We also join others in thanking Mr. Okelo for his efforts to restore peace in Sierra Leone.

The first troops of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) arrived in Sierra Leone only two weeks ago. We very much hope that the deployment of the civilian component of UNAMSIL will keep pace with that of the military contingent, for we believe this is vital in order to ensure that the implementation of the rehabilitation programme proceeds smoothly and rapidly.

We welcome the establishment of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) as a political party and expect Foday Sankoh to participate fully and constructively in the Government of National Unity. Mr. Sankoh should, we believe, present early proposals for the operations of the Commission for the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development, just as Johnny Paul Koroma has done for the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace.

Although progress has been made in the implementation of the Lomé Agreement, we remain deeply concerned at continuing evidence of the fragility of the peace process in Sierra Leone. Clashes between former elements of the RUF and of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), continuing troop movements and attacks on the personnel of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) — all of these represent serious breaches of the ceasefire agreement. This Organization, individually and collectively, must continue to remind all former rebel leaders of the importance of abiding by both the spirit and the letter of the Lomé Agreement.

We are deeply concerned by attacks and harassment by rebel elements directed at humanitarian personnel. The kidnapping this week of two representatives of Médecins sans Frontières is a bitter reminder of the dangers humanitarian workers still face in Sierra Leone. All parties to the Lomé accord are obliged to allow safe and unhindered access to all humanitarian personnel. As a result of prevailing insecurity, especially in the northern and eastern sections of the country, the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance remains extremely difficult. Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Koroma should take action to ensure that their commitments to the relevant provisions of the Lomé accord are translated into effective action. We expect that the deployment of UNAMSIL ought to facilitate greater access for humanitarian organizations and under safer conditions.

With reference to the safety of humanitarian personnel, and of course in order to enhance the security of the people of Sierra Leone and the prospect that they might soon be allowed a fair measure of stability and to resume their normal economic activity, I would ask Mr. Miyet if he could let us know to what extent the presence of anti-personnel landmines is hampering United Nations and other humanitarian work in the country.

The deteriorating human rights situation in Sierra Leone is indeed troubling. As just noted by Ambassadors Van Walsum and Petrella, while Canada supports the establishment of the Human Rights and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, would-be human rights violators are warned that the amnesty provided for in the Lomé accord applies only to events which took place prior to 7 July 1999. Those who violate humanitarian law after that date should be brought to justice. The initiative to study the nexus between the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a possible international inquiry into past human rights violations is, in this context, most welcome.

Canada deplores the continued acts of violence and intimidation perpetrated by rebel elements against the

civilian population. The deployment of UNAMSIL elements to all areas of the country ought to provide civilians with a measure of protection from these continuing depredations. Rebel elements should be reminded that, in addition to the important role played by ECOMOG in ensuring the security of the population, UNAMSIL also has a robust mandate to take necessary action to protect civilians under immediate threat.

To date, the pace of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme has been disappointing, with only 10 per cent of ex-combatants currently registered and a few serviceable weapons collected. We are, however, encouraged by the recent increase in the number of ex-combatants entering the programme. Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma should take further action to encourage their troops to participate fully in the process.

In conclusion, Canada hopes the international community will be attentive to the Secretary-General's call for further support.

Mr. Granovsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We agree with the conclusions and observations contained in the Secretary-General's first progress report prepared since the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. We are pleased that, during this period, significant progress has been made towards implementing the Lomé Peace Agreement. At the same time — as made clear in the Secretary-General's report and the briefing by Under-Secretary-General Miyet — the overall situation in the country remains unstable. There have been serious human rights and ceasefire violations and the humanitarian crisis continues unabated. In this connection, the effective presence of the units of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group must be maintained.

We fully endorse that position and agree with the Secretary-General's main conclusions that the key to a settlement in Sierra Leone lies primarily in the parties' commitment to the Lomé Agreement and in particular to the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. We are convinced that steps taken by the people of Sierra Leone to that end will be unfailingly supported by the international community.

In conclusion, I should like to join in the expressions of appreciation to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Okelo, and to wish the new Special Representative, Mr. Adeniji, success in his work.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish at the outset to thank Under-Secretary-General Miyet for his oral briefing and the Secretary-General for his report.

Our country fully supports the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement and calls on all parties, particularly the rebels, scrupulously to respect its provisions, including the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In this respect, France welcomes the establishment by President Kabbah of the new Government of National Unity in October.

However, like most delegations that have spoken before us, France deplores and condemns the ceasefire violations that have occurred since July and the numerous ongoing human rights violations. I would cite the hostage-taking recently committed by certain rebel leaders and members of the former junta, in particular the abduction of humanitarian personnel working for Médecins sans Frontières. France calls on the rebel movements to facilitate the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to all regions of the country and to ensure the security of the personnel of humanitarian agencies.

We welcome the launching of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and call on all parties to hasten its implementation. We stress the importance of financial support for this programme.

France welcomes the deployment of the first units of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and again thanks the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) for its critical role in providing security nationwide and in facilitating the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

We would emphasize the importance and urgency of providing humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone. I call Council members' attention to the fact that France recently contributed 1 million francs to the World Food Programme to benefit Sierra Leone.

I wish to address a few questions to the representative of the Secretariat. The first concerns the deployment of UNAMSIL, as reflected in the map annexed to the Secretary-General's report. We note that the Mission has been largely deployed in the southern part of the country along a line between Lungi and Daru, which quite naturally covers the positions held by ECOMOG. What are the Secretariat's intentions as to

deployment in the northern part of the country? Have security guarantees for UNAMSIL troops to be deployed there already been negotiated with the rebel movements active in those regions?

Secondly, with respect to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the report emphasizes that doubts remain with regard to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) commitment to the programme. How does the Secretariat assess the nature of these doubts? Is it simply concerned that the RUF will raise the stakes? Is there a problem of command within the divided rebel movement or, more seriously, a fundamental refusal to implement the Lomé Agreement and, in the final analysis, to relinquish control of the diamond-producing regions?

Finally, in paragraph 5 of his report, the Secretary-General notes that Mr. Koroma, the Chairman of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, has already presented his views concerning the organization of work of his Commission. Do these plans truly reflect the wishes of all the parties in Sierra Leone and have they been discussed with the United Nations?

Mr. Jagne (Gambia): Mr. President, first of all my delegation would like to commend you for arranging this open briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report and to Mr. Bernard Miyet for the update.

It is gratifying to note that progress has been made, notably the participation of the rebels in the Government and the registration of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF) as a political party. Similarly, in the vital area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), although the response of the ex-combatants appears timid and slow, there is reason to believe that with the continued support of the donor community the programme will gather momentum. We are delighted to learn that some child soldiers have reported to the DDR programme. This is very encouraging indeed. As Mr. Miyet has rightly pointed out, this is an ongoing process and we need to monitor it closely.

At this juncture, my delegation would like to place on record its appreciation for the support given to the DDR programme by a number of Governments led by the United Kingdom in collaboration with the World Bank.

Au revers de la medaille — on the flip side of the coin, as the French saying goes — my delegation is perturbed by the poor human rights situation that continues to prevail in the country. Both RUF and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) are still holding adults and children in captivity. It is difficult to understand how leaders of RUF and AFRC are part of the Government and yet their followers continue to wreak havoc around the country. It is our fervent hope, however, that with the full deployment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the overall security situation would be improved tremendously and we urge the Secretariat to accelerate the process.

As far as the Gambia military observers are concerned, we are ready to deploy as soon as we are given the green light by the Secretariat. However, we have a question for Mr. Miyet concerning possible civilian police for Sierra Leone. We understand that there are 6 police advisors in Sierra Leone at the moment, and my delegation would like to know what plans the Secretariat has to deploy civilian police to Sierra Leone.

Mr. Al-Dosari (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset allow me to express our thanks to Mr. Bernard Miyet for his valuable briefing on the most recent developments in Sierra Leone.

My delegation welcomes the progress made thus far in implementation of the Lomé Agreement by the return of the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), the two main militias in Sierra Leone, as well as the establishment of the Government of National Unity, the registration of RUF as a political party and the noticeable increase in the number of ex-combatants registered with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme.

Commitment to the ceasefire is the cornerstone of success of the peace process and national reconciliation in Sierra Leone. Therefore, my delegation would like to reaffirm the need for the international community to focus on the disarmament aspect. My delegation wishes to thank the Government of the United Kingdom and the World Bank for their support for the DDR programme. We call upon the donor countries and other international organizations to provide the necessary support for this programme in particular and for the peace process in Sierra Leone in general.

Despite the efforts mentioned, the political and military situation in Sierra Leone continues to be

unstable. This continued instability will have negative effects on the general security situation in the rest of the country. In order to contain the security situation, we affirm the importance of the speedy deployment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) observers.

My delegation expresses its concern at the continued acts of kidnapping, rape and plunder, in particular in the eastern part of the country. Mr. Bockarie is currently shirking his obligation and commitment to the Lomé Agreement and is casting doubt on its credibility. RUF leaders shoulder the primary responsibility for containing Mr. Bockarie, and we call upon them to make every effort to convince him to accept the peaceful option for the solution of the crisis in Sierra Leone.

My delegation condemns all acts of violence and all crimes perpetrated against unarmed civilians and humanitarian workers, the latest of which was the kidnapping of two doctors from a non-governmental organization. We call on the parties responsible for their kidnapping to release them as soon as possible. What the country currently needs urgently is a steady flow of humanitarian assistance and havens and refuge for thousands of refugees and displaced persons.

As you know, Mr. President, on more than one occasion during our informal consultations, my delegation raised the question of the need of the international community to support the activities carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning the manufacturing of artificial limbs to rehabilitate war victims whose limbs have been amputated, in order to reintegrate them into society. My delegation had hoped that a centre for rehabilitation and the manufacture of artificial limbs would be established in Sierra Leone. It is our hope today that the Secretariat will seriously consider this proposal.

In conclusion, my delegation calls upon all parties to the Lomé Agreement to commit themselves to the spirit and the letter of the Agreement and to put the interest of their countries above all other narrow, personal interests and considerations in order to develop the country at all levels — political, economic and social — and in order for Sierra Leone to return to the fold of the international community, where it was before. On this occasion, and on behalf of my delegation, I express our thanks and appreciation to the Economic Community of West African States and its Monitoring Group, ECOMOG, for their efforts and the great sacrifices they made to help Sierra Leone return to normalcy.

I also express our thanks and appreciation to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis Okelo, and the UNAMSIL troops. I wish Mr. Adeniji all success in his work as the successor to Mr. Okelo.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open briefing today on the situation in Sierra Leone. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his first report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Under-Secretary-General Bernard Miyet for introducing the report and for his oral update of the situation.

While noting some positive developments in the situation on the ground thus far, my delegation continues to be seriously concerned about the reports of recent violations of the ceasefire Agreement and rebel attacks on civilians, involving rape, abduction and harassment, in addition to looting and destruction of property. All these acts should be strongly deplored.

We call on the parties not to allow the peace momentum to slide. Sierra Leone cannot afford a return to the anarchic situation of the past. We strongly call on both the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) to honour commitments entered into under the Peace Agreement. We also call on them to release all abductees without delay — adults and, especially, children. We also strongly deplore the detention or abduction of two doctors working for Médecins sans Frontières, and call on the RUF to effect their immediate release.

You may wish, Mr. President, to include this in any statement that you may wish to make to the press following the adjournment of this meeting.

My delegation welcomes the arrival of the first contingents of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in the country in support of the peace process. We further welcome the appointment of Major-General Vijay Kumar Jetley of India as Force Commander of UNAMSIL. We also believe that UNAMSIL's early deployment is crucial in order to help restore calm and order in the country. We urge both UNAMSIL and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to ensure peace and security on the basis of their respective mandates.

My delegation attaches the highest importance to the successful implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. We note that the programme had kicked off to a relatively slow start, but has now improved somewhat. However, the process has been too slow, and therefore disappointing. The number of ex-combatants turning up at the sites is well below the 45,000 estimated total in the country.

We note with concern that recent disturbances in the Lungi and Port Loko areas were due to a misunderstanding over the issue of financial assistance to the ex-combatants. We hope there will be no recurrence of this kind of incident, which can only undermine the DDR programme.

We call on the rebel leaders to rein in their supporters and ensure that the ex-combatants surrender their weapons and participate fully in the DDR programme. The DDR programme is the most critical element in this process, during this still early and very fragile peace that we have in Sierra Leone.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Secretary-General's recent appointment of Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji of Nigeria to replace his outgoing Special Representative, Mr. Francis Okelo. We wish him every success. We also join others in paying special tribute to Mr. Okelo for his leadership, commitment and tireless efforts to secure peace in Sierra Leone, which culminated in the signing of the Lomé Peace Agreement last July.

Mr. Benedejčič (Slovenia): In November, members of the Security Council twice expressed their concern about a volatile security situation in Sierra Leone. In all the statements to the press by the President of the Security Council, members of the Council noted the violations of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the consequent humanitarian suffering of the people of Sierra Leone.

The disquieting nature of the Secretary-General's first report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) is therefore not surprising. It is clear that, despite some progress on the ground, the military and human rights situation in Sierra Leone has deteriorated markedly in recent weeks.

Slovenia is especially disturbed by the escalation of attacks on civilians by former rebel elements. According to paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report, these attacks have involved rape, abduction, harassment and looting. Such behaviour by former rebel elements is unacceptable. Many compromises were necessary to sign the peace accords in Lomé; one was the blanket amnesty provision for war crimes, which is, of course, difficult to reconcile with the goal of ending the culture of impunity. It is therefore imperative that the former rebel leaders, especially Mr. Foday Sankoh, prevent any further excesses on the part of their followers and ensure that all the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement are respected in full.

In the concluding part of his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Bernard Miyet, emphasized that, despite all the difficulties, there was reason for cautious optimism about the peace process in Sierra Leone. The Government of National Unity has been established. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) has provisionally registered itself as a political party. And recently there has been an increase in the number of ex-combatants registering for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme.

Moreover, the first elements of the United Nations peacekeeping force are already on the ground. It is therefore to be hoped that the current period does indeed represent a critical watershed in the peace process that will usher Sierra Leone into a period of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

The last thing that Sierra Leone needs at this juncture is a repeat of the events of December last year, when the rebel forces launched an offensive and plunged the country into chaos. Members of the Security Council received advance warning of that oncoming catastrophe during an open briefing by Ambassador Hans Dahlgren of Sweden on his visit to the country as the Chairman of the Sierra Leone sanctions committee.

Let us hope that this time around the open briefing of the members of the Security Council will be followed by a peace offensive, by renewed efforts of the international community and key actors on the ground to ensure the successful completion of the peace process in Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi (Namibia): We, too, would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report, and we appreciate the additional information presented by Mr. Miyet.

Since the signing of the Lomé Agreement, human rights violations by rebel groups continue to characterize the political landscape of Sierra Leone. Recent fighting

between rebel wings continues to cause mass displacement of the civilian population, in suspension of the much needed humanitarian assistance to those in need. While I am on this point, let me join those who have called for the immediate release of the two doctors who were abducted.

We welcome the arrival back in Freetown of Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Koroma. We are also pleased to hear that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) has transformed itself into a political party and that it is registering itself with the Interim National Electoral Commission. While all these steps are positive, we are deeply concerned by the military and security situation on the ground and the slow process of disarmament and demobilization.

On this respect, we would like to make it very clear that we hold the rebels responsible for the current security situation in that country. The RUF and other rebel movements cannot be political parties and rebel movements at the same time. Secondly, from what we know, soldiers by the very nature of the military set-up have no choice but to listen to their leaders. We demand that those who command and control the combatants in Sierra Leone take the necessary steps for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme to proceed unhindered. The people of Sierra Leone have seen too much suffering.

Reluctance to disarm in the confrontation between the RUF and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) harm the peace process.

The DDR programme will not succeed when abductions, looting and refusal to release abductees and child soldiers persist. These negative developments will only be addressed by sticking to the Lomé Agreement in its entirety.

We are pleased to see that the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has started, and we call for the speedy deployment of the 6,000 UNAMSIL contingent. Even when the 6,000 UNAMSIL contingent is fully deployed, what we see in the report and what we hear is taking place on the ground make us wonder whether it can indeed deal with over 40,000 combatants. In this connection, we recall a provision in the Secretary-General's report when he proposed the 6,000 troops that their strength should be reviewed in line with conditions on the ground. We would like to understand that that provision still exists.

My delegation would like to thank the donor community for its generous contributions to the DDR programme as well as to the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Sierra Leone. It is our hope that, with the political will of the people of Sierra Leone, peace will finally be achieved.

We appreciate the efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to maintain security in insecure conditions. We echo the Secretary-General's call to the international community to assist ECOMOG in this regard.

The Lomé Agreement is being put to the test, but in our view so is the determination of the international community.

Finally, we thank Mr. Okelo for all that he has done in aiding the peace process, and we welcome Mr. Adeniji of Nigeria in his new appointment.

Ms. Soderberg (United States of America): We are especially pleased that today's session is in an open forum, and commend you, Mr. President, for the initiative, which demonstrates the commitment not only of the Security Council, but also of the broader international community, to assist the people of Sierra Leone to achieve the peace that they so richly deserve.

The United Nations has taken a number of important steps to assist in the peace process in Sierra Leone. We appreciate Under-Secretary-General Miyet's briefing on those efforts this morning and commend the endeavours of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone to consolidate the peace process on the ground. The recent deployment of the Kenyan and Indian troops is most welcome.

We also welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of Ambassador Adeniji as the new Special Representative. We worked closely with him in the Central African Republic and are confident he will do an excellent job in Sierra Leone and continue the very able efforts of his predecessor, Francis Okelo.

The role of the United Nations in monitoring the ceasefire and assisting in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is crucial to the success of the peace process, so we are pleased that things are under way in Sierra Leone.

It is also important to finalize the arrangements to "re-hat" up to four battalions of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) troops mostly from Ghana and Nigeria, who will be a key element in the United Nations force. It is also important to commend the very courageous and able efforts of the ECOMOG troops in what is one of the most difficult areas of the world. They have performed ably in extremely difficult circumstances. Overall, one must say that the United Nations is doing its part, but it is important to remember that United Nations troops cannot impose peace in Sierra Leone or, for that matter, anywhere else. It is up to the parties to uphold the peace process by complying with the terms of the Lomé Agreement.

Some progress has been made on that. Certainly the formation of the Government of National Unity, including the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) representatives, announced on 20 October, is an important and crucial step forward in that process. There has been some progress on the disarmament programme, albeit with a very slow start and difficulties regarding the participation of the RUF. But I think the programme is finally producing some positive results in showing the all-important progress on the ground which will help consolidate the progress.

It is crucial that the international community underscore the need for all ex-combatants to uphold their commitments under the Lomé Agreement and to disarm as soon as possible. That certainly involves the leadership of the combatants, and the role of Mr. Foday Sankoh will be crucial.

We hope that all leaders in the region will maintain pressure on Sierra Leone's factional leaders. Certainly some neighbours have direct responsibility in trying to push things forward, to move swiftly to disarm and demobilize as quickly as possible. The annual ECOWAS summit provides an opportunity for the leaders in the region to underscore that message.

It is important for all parties to cease hostilities and guarantee safe, free and unhindered access to the United Nations and international personnel in all parts of Sierra Leone. The report of the abduction of several doctors from Médecins sans Frontières this morning is deeply troubling. We join in the international community's call for their immediate release as well as the release of all abductees who are being held captive.

We think it is important for all States in the region to support reintegration and to provide humanitarian development assistance. The international community has a crucial role to play in consolidating the peace process.

Finally, I should like to reiterate that we — the United States and, more broadly, the international community — stand ready to help the people of Sierra Leone rebuild their shattered lives. But it is important to remember that this cannot be possible without the strong commitment of all parties to the peace process. It is their responsibility to live up to their commitments, which we can help them do, but which ultimately they must do themselves.

Mr. Fonseca (Brazil): My delegation deeply appreciates your initiative in convening this open meeting, Mr. President.

I should like first to thank the Secretary-General for his report and Under-Secretary-General Bernard Miyet for his comprehensive and precise briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone.

My delegation welcomes the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the Lomé Agreement as well as the arrival of the first United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) contingents in Freetown. We congratulate the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other troop-contributing countries on their efforts to uphold the peace process.

Even though the situation in Sierra Leone is beginning to move in a positive direction, with the institution of the Government of National Unity and the initial deployment of the UNAMSIL, the country still faces serious difficulties in the security and humanitarian fields.

The first report on UNAMSIL clearly indicates that the overall situation remains very fragile. The continued actions by the rebel groups, jeopardizing the implementation of the Lomé Agreement, are unacceptable. We condemn the continued detention of women and children by the rebel groups and the recent wave of violence against the civilian population and humanitarian personnel. We join our colleagues in demanding the immediate release of the two members of Médecins sans Frontières. We also deplore the increase in ceasefire violations which may lead to the resumption of civil war. So there is an urgent need for concerted

action to remove all obstacles to the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement. However, international efforts to promote peace in Sierra Leone cannot replace the efforts of the Sierra Leonean parties themselves to promote national reconciliation.

Since most parties are now represented in the Government of National Unity under a power-sharing agreement, priority should be given to ensure that all parties abide by the letter and the spirit of the Lomé Peace Agreement. Radical groups must be persuaded that dialogue is the only viable option. They must be warned that the international community remains determined to prevent the country from plunging again into chaos and anarchy, as well as to adopt measures against those individuals who refuse to join the peace process.

Implementation of the peace process requires adequate resources to be carried out. As a first priority, the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants is essential. In this respect, we commend the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, Germany and Italy for their contribution to the DDR programme.

We urge strict compliance with the provisions of the existing arms embargo on Sierra Leone, and we support further measures such as the establishment of a monitoring and inspection mechanism to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

The Secretary-General's report calls attention to the fact that humanitarian assistance cannot be provided in many areas of Sierra Leone due to the precarious security situation. It is imperative that safe access for humanitarian personnel be guaranteed so as to meet the needs of the entire affected population.

There are also long-term tasks that the international community will have to address in the future, such as the rehabilitation and the reconstruction of the country and the need to assist with the return and reintegration of an estimated half a million Sierra Leoneans who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. At this critical moment in the peace process, it is essential that the international community continue to provide financial and logistical support for the effective implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

Finally, we welcome the designation of Ambassador Adeniji of Nigeria as the new Special Representative in Sierra Leone and would like to express our deep appreciation to his predecessor, Francis Okelo.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report, as well as for the additional briefing given by the Secretariat. We also wish to express our appreciation to the delegation of the United Kingdom for convening this meeting on the question of Sierra Leone.

The situation in Sierra Leone has recently been developing in a positive direction. Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Koroma have both returned to Freetown. A new national Government has been established in Sierra Leone that includes the former rebel forces. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme has also made some headway. In general, the Lomé Agreement has been implemented. We are satisfied about this.

We wish to thank the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), as well as all other parties, for their positive efforts and their outstanding contributions to the peace process in Sierra Leone over a long time.

We are also fully aware of the fact that the present political and security situation in Sierra Leone is still fragile. There is still tension between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). Various unstable elements could affect the peace process in Sierra Leone at any time. Furthermore, the humanitarian situation in the country is still grave and violations of human rights occur from time to time. Therefore the future of Sierra Leone allows no optimism.

The implementation of the DDR programme is vital to the peace process in Sierra Leone. In this regard, we have taken note of paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report of the Secretary-General. We are surprised by the speech given by Mr. Sankoh in which he said that the RUF might temporarily suspend its participation in the DDR programme. We are also concerned that part of the RUF's troops have all along refused to take part in the programme. We hope that the RUF will take part in the programme with a more positive attitude. We urge Mr. Sankoh to play his role.

At the same time, we have also taken note of the fact that due to lack of resources and poor treatment, there are incidents of unrest at some demobilization

centres. We call upon the international community to further increase its assistance to Sierra Leone so as to facilitate the smooth implementation of the DDR programme.

We note that the Government of Sierra Leone was supposed to have completed the implementation of the DDR programme throughout the country by 15 December. In the light of the current process, it is almost certain that this date will be postponed. However, it is our sincere hope that it will not be postponed repeatedly.

We have taken note with satisfaction of the fact that the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has already begun and that the first contingent of troops is already in place.

The work of formulating a national development security strategy framework is also close to completion. We wish to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts in this regard.

At the same time, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ambassador Okelo for his work. We also hope that the new Special Representative, Ambassador Adeniji, will be able to complete this arduous task.

In conclusion, we call upon the international community to continue its joint efforts to help the people of Sierra Leone achieve peace, stability and, eventually, national reconciliation.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United Kingdom.

We too are very grateful to Under-Secretary-General Miyet for his very helpful update on the Secretary-General's latest report.

Progress continues to be made, and we welcome in particular the continuing strong contribution of Nigeria and of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) as a whole, and the arrival of Kenyan and Indian peacekeepers under the new Force Commander, Major-General Jetley. It is critical that the force deploys to full strength and soon as possible, and we must ensure that the Force Commander has the clearest possible guidance and backing from his headquarters in New York.

The United Kingdom is committed to do all that we can to help in this effort and to make the Lomé Peace Agreement work more widely. The Agreement gives the best chance to the people of Sierra Leone for an end to the violence and suffering they have endured for the past eight years. While there are, as Mr. Miyet has pointed out, some reasons for cautious optimism — particularly in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme — we agree with the Secretary-General that serious problems remain.

We are concerned at the continuing cease-fire violations, human rights abuses and lack of humanitarian access. And we are appalled by the recent attack on personnel of non-governmental organizations and by the detention of medical workers in the east of the country. We hope that their release is imminent.

Tensions between the different rebel groups and leaders — Sankoh, Koroma and Bockarie — lie behind much of this continuing unrest and violence. It is essential to maintain dialogue with each of them to bring them and their followers into the Lomé framework.

Even in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, organizational and security problems continue to hamper the DDR programme. These need to be addressed, and a better information and sensitization strategy is vital to encourage those groups that have not yet disarmed to do so.

The United Kingdom welcomes the recent pledges of contributions to the World Bank Trust Fund from Germany, Canada, Italy and Norway and the announcement this morning of contributions from the Netherlands and France.

We look forward to hearing the Secretary-General's next report in January, when UNAMSIL is fully deployed. The United Kingdom welcomes the appointment of Special Representative Adeniji and pays tribute to the work of Francis Okelo.

Finally, we urge the parties and all those with influence over them to continue to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Lomé Agreement to allow this desperately needed peacekeeping operation to fulfil its mandate.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Miyet to respond to the comments and questions that have arisen.

Mr. Miyet (*spoke in French*): First of all, and I regret that I did not do the same earlier, several delegations have expressed their satisfaction with, and gratitude for, the work done by Francis Okelo during the difficult phase that led to the Lomé Agreement. Subsequently he proved to be a key player for the United Nations and demonstrated wisdom, intelligence and tact in carrying out his role.

By the same token, Special Representative Adeniji has, under very trying circumstances, already proved — through his experience, his authority and his ability to manage a difficult operation in the Central African Republic — that in the months ahead he will be up to the challenge posed by the process. I think that the expressions of gratitude are well-deserved and that there are now grounds for real hope that Ambassador Adeniji is someone who will be able to successfully take over.

(*spoke in English*)

Maybe, for Mr. van Walsum's benefit, I should say that perhaps I was influenced with respect to the bad news and the good news, but considering the way the English speakers expressed themselves — Ambassador Jagne himself said at one point "*au revers de la médaille*" — I believe that maybe with these good English words I was drawn into another language. Or maybe it was the French delegation which, by posing questions that raised a lot of doubts and uncertainties, influenced my presentation. But I will see.

With respect to the French presentations, I would like to apologize to the French-speaking delegations for the fact that there is a small error in the French version of the report, in paragraph 6, where reference is made to the "American national electoral Commission". Perhaps the translator was influenced by the fact that Ambassador Holbrooke was there; his reputation is such that maybe he is also chairing this Commission.

I will now turn to the various questions raised. With respect to Ambassador Fowler's question on mines, it is true that we have recently discovered that there is a mine problem. We did not know of it before because we were not able to reach the northern part of the country. It is clear that we do not know the scope of the problem at this juncture. We will send a technical assessment team very soon to review with the Government and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) what the demining needs are, both to protect the United Nations troops to be deployed there and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance and the work of the humanitarian non-governmental organizations.

The second question was raised by Ambassador Jagne on the possibility of deploying civilian police. Here too I would say that every mission is different and that the concept of operations has to be adapted to specific needs. Mainly, as far as we are concerned, it is under the Lomé Peace Agreement that we are carrying out our activities and actions. So with respect to the ceasefire and as far as the civilian police is concerned, actions are already being carried out with the support of the British Commonwealth. This task was not directly given to the United Nations, but we are assisting and supporting this process and will continue to do so.

Our human rights component is also working very hard to try to assist the process. One hundred Sierra Leonean police officers were trained this week by our human rights experts, and these programmes will develop later on.

The representative of Namibia also posed some questions as to the references by the Secretariat to the fact that the strength of the troops will be reviewed, depending on the conditions on the ground. This is linked mainly to the fact that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) troops would remain. This is referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and was mentioned in my briefing at the outset of this meeting. We expect the ECOMOG troops to remain with a robust presence in both Freetown and Lungi. There is no need to increase the United Nations troops. The reference in the report was linked to the level of cooperation with ECOMOG and to the actions that they could take in this region. Therefore, for the time being, the conditions are there.

(*spoke in French*)

I will strive now to answer the questions raised by the French delegation, to inject some optimism and to show that to speak in French does not necessarily entail pessimism.

First, let me touch on the question on the deployment in the northern part of Sierra Leone and the conditions under which it will take place, in particular the security conditions. As has been made clear, the deployment in the north will consist of two Kenyan and

Indian contingents. That is due in part to the desire of the Organization and the Secretariat to show clearly that the United Nations action is a new and impartial action, and also to show our resolve that United Nations action in this connection must be vigorous.

This information has been communicated to all the parties, including Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Karoma. Discussions are ongoing to ensure that every clarification will be made as to the deployment — how and when it will be carried out, under what conditions and with what mandate. We believe that in this way problems can be avoided.

It is clear that the deployment of these troops will give rise to questions and concerns. It is taking place in a measured and well-thought-out manner in order to ensure security.

The second series of questions relates to the fact that there are some doubts as to the commitment of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF) to participate in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, and as to the possible explanations. Is it an attempt to raise the stakes? Are there disagreements between the various rebel leaders? Or is it simply a refusal to implement the Agreement or a desire to retain their hold over diamond-rich areas? It is very difficult at this point to give a clear-cut answer.

I will say, though, as Ambassador Qin Huasun stated, that even if recently there has been some doubt about the implementation of the programme, we know that Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma are in Freetown, that they are actively participating in all the negotiations and that on several occasions they have made statements. It is clear that, if they had deliberately wished not to implement it, for their own safety and security they would doubtless prefer not to be in Freetown at this stage. That is one element that should be taken into account.

The second part of my answer is perhaps linked to the fact that now United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) troops are in the process of being deployed. That presence — and the arrival of Indian and Kenyan troops with strong resources — in areas that have been only under rebel control throughout the entire period, might give rise to certain questions. As I said earlier, there is a need for dialogue and clarification so as to create conditions of confidence with regard to all the rebel leaders. Let us not forget that they have been isolated for months, even years, by combat and distrust. The sudden arrival of well-equipped foreign troops will doubtless give rise here and there to fears and questions that should be taken into account.

Given the climate of distrust now prevailing, a further element that might give rise to such doubts and disquiet at this stage is the disarmament programme. We must make sure that it progresses in parallel, on the rebel side as well as that of the other forces — that is to say, the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) as well as the Kamajors. It is necessary to show that this disarmament programme involves all the parties, not only the rebel groups.

A third explanation for the doubts and questions may also relate to the disarmament programme, in particular the conditions under which the fighters that have agreed to demobilize are received in the camps and the payment of a sum to enable them to provide for the survival of their families. These factors have created certain dissatisfaction and anxiety in the camps and led to expressions of discontent that are perhaps understandable. Obviously, both Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma are subject to pressures from their former troops, who want to see a real will to demobilize and tangible signs that their reintegration will provide them with adequate financial conditions and dignity. Such reactions affect the leaders, who are held to account by the troops.

Under such conditions it is important for dialogue to continue, as is happening, and for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to maintain a consolidated, firm and assured presence in both Freetown and Lungi. In that context, and given the financial and human effort being made by the countries that have been contributing to ECOMOG, the support of donor countries is essential. I made that point earlier, and I hope that it will be borne in mind. It is essential to support this effort.

At the same time, the presence of UNAMSIL, as well as of Indian and Kenyan troops and the ECOMOG troops that will remain or be replaced by fresh troops, will no doubt have an impact on the rebels themselves and on the various groups, showing them that the exercise is to be taken seriously, and that the force present in the country has the capacity to deter the various parties from reneging on the commitments they have undertaken.

In conclusion, inasmuch as this is a public meeting and will no doubt resonate in the country as a

demonstration of widespread support among African countries and throughout the international community, I believe that the Security Council is sending out an important message to all the parties.

In its last question, the French delegation referred to the statements made by Mr. Johnny Paul Koroma regarding the organization of the work of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace and asked whether the issue had been discussed with the United Nations. I should like to remind the Council that the Commission is a national one, created under the Agreement. We are not talking about a Commission that is under the responsibility of the United Nations Mission. It is therefore essentially for the Sierra Leoneans themselves to organize and discuss it. The only comment that I can make is that Mr. Koroma's statement related to the strategy he envisaged for the Commission. In our view, that is a demonstration, at least at this stage, of his commitment to working actively within the institutions that have been set up under the Lomé Agreement. This is therefore a positive sign. The statements that he made appear to be relatively pertinent. It is now up to the members of that Commission themselves to hold discussions and to establish their guidelines, programme of work and strategy.

The President: I am grateful to Mr. Miyet for his answers and observations, which were, as always, comprehensive and acute. This has been an important and interesting meeting on the subject. This is a critical operation of the United Nations in Africa; we must get it right, and the Security Council will want to work closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular, in getting it right.

Mr. Buallay (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor once again in this interesting and thought-provoking discussion of the important subject of Sierra Leone. My delegation, both in the informal consultations and in the debate in this Chamber, made a proposal regarding the establishment of a centre in Sierra Leone to provide artificial limbs and rehabilitation for those who have been disabled. My delegation made that proposal because of the large number of war victims in that country. There is a need to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society those who have been maimed or disabled so that they will not be a burden on others. We made our proposal knowing that there are good centres of that type in developed countries that can help in this regard, whether directly or through the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

We hoped that the Secretariat would respond to our proposal, which would contribute to post-conflict peace-building in Sierra Leone. That task might fall within the purview of bodies other than the Security Council, at least indirectly. In our opinion, that is sufficient reason for the Secretariat to enlighten us as to which competent body we should address our proposal to. My delegation would be grateful for a response from Mr. Miyet.

The President: I give the floor to Mr. Miyet.

Mr. Miyet: I did not realize that the representative of Bahrain had asked me that question — I thought it was an observation. All efforts leading to the alleviation of the suffering of the people and to improving their plight are welcome. I think that it would be useful to discuss the matter with Carolyn McAskie, the acting Emergency Relief Coordinator, so that she can check with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization and find out which agencies are working most actively in that area and are able to support such a process. I will inform her about those project initiatives on the part of Bahrain.

The President: I thank the Under-Secretary-General for his contribution this morning.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4079

Security Council
Fifty-fourth Year

Provisional

4079th Meeting
Friday, 10 December 1999, 12.40 p.m.
New York

President:	Sir Jeremy Greenstock	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Petrella
	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Fonseca
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Namibia	Mrs. Ashipala-Musavyi
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Slovenia	Mr. Benedejčič
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1242 (1999) (S/1999/1162 and Corr.1)

Letter dated 17 November 1999 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (S/1999/1177)

99-86694 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 12.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1242 (1999) (S/1999/1162 and Corr.1)

Letter dated 17 November 1999 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (S/1999/1177)

The President: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/1999/1230, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Gabon, Gambia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1281 (1999).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.